United Nations A/C.3/67/L.60

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Sixty-seventh session
Third Committee
Agenda items 69 (b) and 130

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Committee against Torture

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.45

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Request contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.45, the General Assembly would decide to authorize the Committee, without prejudice to the intergovernmental process of the Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, to continue to meet for an additional week per session as a temporary measure, with effect from May 2013 until the end of November 2014, in order to address the backlog of reports of States parties and individual complaints awaiting consideration.

II. Relationship of the draft resolution to the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

2. The activities referred to above relate to: (a) part B, Conference management, Geneva, of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; (b) subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights treaty bodies, of programme 19, Human rights; and (c) programme 24, Management and support services, of the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 (A/65/6/Rev.1). They fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 24, Human rights; and section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

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III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. The Committee is entitled to six weeks of meeting time (two sessions of three weeks' duration) per year. Further to General Assembly resolution 65/204, the Committee has been granted, on a temporary basis, additional meeting time for two weeks annually in 2011 and 2012 (two sessions of four weeks per year). The Third Committee has requested the Assembly to authorize the Committee to continue to grant the additional two weeks annually, on a temporary basis.

4. The extension of the additional meeting time would allow the Committee to continue to consider two additional reports per session, or a total of eight additional reports during the two-year period (2013 and 2014).

5. This additional meeting time would also permit the Committee to continue to consider, at a minimum, five additional individual complaints per session, or a total of 20 additional complaints over the two-year period (2013 and 2014).

6. Finally, the additional meeting time would allow the Committee to continue its optional reporting procedure, adopting an average of 10 additional lists of issues per session, or a total of 40 for the two-year period (2013 and 2014). This procedure consists of remitting a list of issues to States parties prior to the submission of their reports to the Committee, which has assisted States parties to report in a focused and timely manner and has reduced the time and cost of the reporting.

7. The present request relates expressly to the possibility that the Committee might continue: (a) its optional procedure assisting States parties to report; (b) reducing the backlog of pending reports; and (c) reducing the backlog of individual complaints (currently 115 cases) pending before the Committee.

8. The activities to be carried out relate to: section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 24, Human rights; and section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

9. Provisions have been made in the 2012-2013 programme budget for the travel and per diem costs for the 10 members of the Committee to attend its two annual regular sessions in Geneva of four weeks each in 2012 and three weeks each in 2013, as well as for conference services for the Committee.

10. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.45, provisions for a total of 40 additional meetings would be required. The additional meetings of the Committee would require interpretation services in the official languages and summary records would also be required for the 40 additional meetings. The additional meetings would require an estimated additional 600 pages of pre-session, 480 pages of in-session and 680 pages of post-session documentation, only 280 pages of which would be required in all official languages with the remaining pages in the three working languages of the Committee. Additional resources would be also required for the per diem costs for the members of the Committee in relation to the additional meeting time, although additional resources would not be required for travel.

11. Additional staffing requirements would be needed to provide 28 working months of service, at the P-3 level, over the two-year period (2013 and 2014), that is, the provision of general temporary assistance for 14 months per year at the P-3 level.

12. Based on experience, on average, the following amount of time would be required of Professional staff: (a) four weeks per Committee's consideration of a State party report; (b) one week to assist in the preparation and adoption of a list of issues prior to reporting; and (c) two weeks to assist the Committee in deciding an individual complaint. For State party reports, this includes research, the preparation of country analyses, draft lists of issues and draft concluding observations, and servicing the meetings of the respective Committee session. For a list of issues prior to reporting, this includes research and compilation of sources of information, the preparation of a draft list of issues prior to reporting and servicing the meetings of the respective Committee session. For individual complaints, this includes research, legal analysis, including for consistency and coherence of jurisprudence, and the preparation of draft decisions, as well as servicing for the meetings of the respective Committee session. In addition, staff need to undertake secretariat-related tasks, as required by the supervisor. Supporting the workload generated by the granting of this additional meeting time, namely, the consideration of eight additional State party reports, the adoption of 40 additional lists of issues prior to reporting and of 20 additional individual cases, requires 112 working weeks for the biennium, that is, 28 working months for the biennium.

13. The above requirements relating to the additional meetings of the Committee would amount to $1,444,600 per year as enumerated in the tables below. These requirements are new and were not included in the programme budget for 2012-2013. Hence, additional appropriations would be required for costs pertaining to 2013. As for the 2014 requirements, these would be included within the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

IV. Estimated additional resource requirements

A. Conference-servicing requirements

14. It is estimated that additional conference-servicing requirements of $2,300,000 would arise, comprising $2,287,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and a total of $12,200 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva. While the amount of $1,150,000 for 2013, including $1,143,900 under section 2 and of $6,100 under section 29E is to be requested under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, the amount of $1,150,000 to provide for the 2014 requirements, including $1,143,900 under section 2 and $6,100 under section 29E, will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. The table below provides the details of these requirements.

	2013	*2014*	*Total*
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social affairs and conference management			
Interpretation	87 500	87 500	175 000
Pre-session documentation	214 400	214 400	428 800
In-session documentation	194 000	194 000	388 000
Summary records	159 500	159 500	319 000
Post-session documentation	478 500	478 500	957 000
Other conference services	10 000	10 000	20 000
Total, section 2	**1 143 900**	**1 143 900**	**2 287 800**
Section 29E, Administration, Geneva			
Support service requirements	6 100	6 100	12 200
Total, section 29E	**6 100**	**6 100**	**12 200**
Total	**1 150 000**	**1 150 000**	**2 300 000**

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

Section 24, Human rights

15. It is estimated that general temporary assistance resources at the P-3 level for 14 working months per year at the cost of $215,200 for 2013 would be required under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 to provide substantive support to the Committee for the additional reports to be examined each year. An additional provision for daily subsistence allowance in the amount of $79,400 per year would also be required for the extension of the Committee members' stay in Geneva for the additional meeting time. The 2014 general temporary assistance requirements at P-3 level for 14 working months and an additional provision for daily subsistence allowance, totalling $294,600, would also arise in the 2014-2015 biennium.

16. In addition, the amounts of $20,300 for 2013 and $20,300 for 2014 would be required under section 37, Staff assessment, of the programme budget, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget. The table below shows the total additional requirements under budget sections 2, 24 and 29E.

	2013	2014	Total
Section 24, Human rights			
Daily subsistence allowance for 10 members in Geneva for an additional 14 days	79 400	79 400	158 800
General temporary assistance at the P-3 level for 14 working months per year	215 200	215 200	430 400
Total, section 24	**294 600**	**294 600**	**589 200**
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	**1 143 900**	**1 143 900**	**2 287 800**
Total, section 2	**1 143 900**	**1 143 900**	**2 287 800**
Section 29E, Administration, Geneva	**6 100**	**6 100**	**12 200**
Total, section 29E	**6 100**	**6 100**	**12 200**
Total	**1 444 600**	**1 444 600**	**2 889 200**

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2012-2013

17. No provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for the activities requested in paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.45. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It would therefore be necessary to provide additional resources in the amount of $1,444,600 through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2012-2013. The additional requirements of $1,444,600 for 2014 would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

VI. Contingency fund

18. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VII. Summary

19. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.45, additional resources in the total amount of $1,444,600 would arise for the**

biennium 2012-2013, including $294,600 under section 24, Human rights; $1,143,900 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; and $6,100 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require additional appropriation for the biennium 2012-2013 to be approved by the Assembly.

20. **The additional requirements of $1,444,600, including $294,600 under section 24, Human rights; $1,143,900 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; and $6,100 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Cape Verde:* draft resolution

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

Welcoming the adoption, and the ongoing ratification process, of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,[5] which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and other persons of concern, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing and responding to sexual and gender based violence,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] Available from www.africa-union.org.

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Gravely concerned about the rising number of refugees in various parts of the continent,

Acknowledging the efforts of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in improving the situation of refugees, and expressing grave concern about the deteriorating living conditions in many refugee camps in Africa,

Recognizing that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV and AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

Noting with appreciation the Joint Declaration adopted at the joint summit on the Horn of Africa crisis, held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 September 2011, which, inter alia, expressed concern about the mass exodus of refugees into neighbouring countries, as well as the increased number of internally displaced persons due to the current humanitarian crises of drought and famine in the Horn of Africa,

Noting with appreciation also the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in 2006,[6] and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact, which are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

Acknowledging with appreciation the generosity, hospitality and spirit of solidarity of African countries that continue to host the influx of refugees due to the humanitarian crises and protracted refugee situations on the continent and, in this regard, expressing particular appreciation for the commitment and efforts of neighbouring countries in the recent humanitarian crises in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and the Horn of Africa, and the recent crises in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and the Sahel, and further acknowledging with appreciation the coordination of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations as well as the continuing efforts of donors, the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, regional organizations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners, with regard to, inter alia, voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement, in addressing the plight of refugees during the emergency,

Recognizing that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection of and assistance to refugees on their territory, and the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and burden- and responsibility-sharing,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem, in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

Acknowledging the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the

[6] Available from www.icglr.org.

Reduction of Statelessness,[7] in 2011, welcoming in this context the convening, by the Office of the High Commissioner, of an intergovernmental event at the ministerial level on 7 and 8 December 2011 as recognition of the importance of respecting and upholding the values and principles enshrined in those two instruments, and welcoming the adoption of a ministerial communiqué, as well as the submission of pledges by States and relevant efforts at the national level for their implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[8] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[9]

2. *Calls upon* African Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa[5] to consider doing so as early as possible in order to ensure its early entry into force and implementation;

3. *Notes* the need for African Member States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall flows of refugees;

4. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

5. *Welcomes* decisions EX.CL/Dec.686 (XX) and EX.CL/Dec.709 (XXI) on the humanitarian situation in Africa, insofar as they relate to persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its twentieth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 27 January 2012, and at its twenty-first ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 13 July 2012, respectively;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the High Commissioner, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum, including by providing support to vulnerable local host communities, and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the African Union, the Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons of its Permanent Representatives Committee, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

8. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in identifying, through a participatory approach, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee communities, in particular the

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

[8] A/67/323.

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/67/12).

non-discriminatory treatment and protection of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly;

9. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration in new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

10. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement;

11. *Also recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

12. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fifty-second session,[10] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

13. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern with regard to situations in which minimum standards of

[10] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

15. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

16. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

17. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

18. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all measures necessary to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

19. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons;

20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other entities concerned to continue and, where appropriate, intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information

about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers;

21. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

22. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

23. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

24. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[11] where appropriate and feasible;

25. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons, where appropriate;

26. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

27. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical

[11] Available from www.unhcr.org.

approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including the improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and the realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

28. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, notes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[12] takes note of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

29. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

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[12] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Egypt: amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.44/Rev.1

Moratorium on the use of the death penalty

After the second preambular paragraph, insert a new preambular paragraph, reading:

Reaffirming the sovereign rights of Member States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and urging all Member States to implement their obligations under international human rights instruments,

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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Singapore: amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.44/Rev.1

Moratorium on the use of the death penalty

After operative paragraph 1, insert a new operative paragraph, reading:

Reaffirms the sovereign right of all countries to develop their own legal systems, including determining appropriate legal penalties, in accordance with their obligations under international law;

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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Antigua and Barbuda: amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.44/Rev.1

Moratorium on the use of the death penalty

Replace operative paragraph 4 (b) with the following text:

To make available relevant information with regard to their use of the death penalty, which can contribute to possible informed and transparent national debates;

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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Trinidad and Tobago: amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.44/Rev.1

Moratorium on the use of the death penalty

After operative paragraph 4 (d), insert a new subparagraph, reading:

To restrict the crimes for which the death penalty may be imposed to the most serious crimes, pursuant to a final judgement rendered by a competent court, in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence;

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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Botswana: amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.44/Rev.1

Moratorium on the use of the death penalty

Before operative paragraph 4 (e), insert a new subparagraph, reading:

To comply with their obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, and to pay due regard to the provisions contained in articles 6, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child while bearing in mind relevant international safeguards and guarantees, including the right to seek pardon or commutation of sentence;

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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Singapore: amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.36

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Delete the eighth preambular paragraph:

Noting also with deep concern the continuing instances of the arbitrary deprivation of life, as a result of the imposition and implementation of capital punishment in a manner that violates international law,

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Third Committee
Agenda item 69 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

United Arab Emirates:* amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.36

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

In operative paragraph 6 (b), replace "or because of their sexual orientation or gender identity" in the fifth and sixth lines with "or for any other reason".

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

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United Nations A/C.3/67/L.69

General Assembly

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16 November 2012

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Sixty-seventh session
Third Committee
Agenda items 69 (b) and 130

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.35

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.35, the General Assembly would decide to authorize the Committee, without prejudice to the intergovernmental process of the Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, to meet in parallel chambers, of nine members each, for the 5 working days of one of its three pre-sessional working group meetings in 2013 and 13 working days of one of its three regular sessions in 2014, for the purposes of considering the reports of the States parties submitted under article 44 of the Convention, article 8 of the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and article 12 of the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, taking due account of equitable geographical distribution and the principal legal systems.

II. Relationship of the draft resolution to the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

2. The activities referred to above relate to: (a) part B, Conference management, Geneva, of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council

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affairs and conference management; (b) subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights treaty bodies, of programme 19, Human rights; and (c) programme 24, Management and support services, of the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 (A/65/6/Rev.1). They also fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 24, Human rights; and section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child meets for three regular sessions per year, each of three weeks' duration, with each session followed by a one-week meeting of a pre-sessional working group. The Committee examines reports submitted under three instruments: the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict; and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It is estimated that the Committee could review a maximum of 10 State party reports during one session, or up to 30 per year.

4. Further to General Assembly resolution 63/244, in which the Assembly authorized the Committee to meet in parallel chambers for its three regular sessions and related pre-sessional working groups, the Committee met in two chambers at its fifty-third session (11-29 January 2010), fifty-fourth (25 May-11 June 2010) and fifty-fifth sessions (13 September-1 October 2010). During those periods, the Committee managed to maintain its backlog of reports at a level of approximately 80 reports, which translated into a three-year backlog. Since the last of the two-chamber sessions, the backlog has again begun to increase and, as at the end of October 2012, stood at 110 reports, 66 under the Convention and 20 and 24 respectively under the two Optional Protocols. If considered in strict chronological order of receipt, this represented a delay of four years from receipt to consideration of a report.

5. At its meeting on 4 February 2011, held during its fifty-sixth session (17 January-4 February 2011), the Committee decided to request the General Assembly: (a) to approve the holding of one of its three annual regular sessions in two chambers, to enable it to consider up to 10 additional reports at that session; and (b) to approve the holding of one of its three annual pre-sessional working group meetings in two chambers, to enable it to adopt the necessary 10 additional lists of issues on State party reports to be examined at the two-chamber session.

6. Provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for travel and per diem costs of 18 members of the Committee to attend its three annual regular sessions and meetings of the pre-sessional working groups in Geneva as well as for conference services for the Committee. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.35, no additional resources would be required for the travel or per diem costs for the members of the Committee in relation to the additional meetings.

7. Additional meeting requirements would arise pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.35, to provide for 10 additional meetings of the second chamber of one of the three pre-sessional working group meetings in

May 2013 and for 26 additional meetings of the second chamber of one of the three regular sessions in January 2014.

8. The meetings of the second chambers would require resources for additional documentation as follows: 10 common core documents, 10 State party reports, 10 lists of issues, 10 replies to lists of issues and 10 concluding observations, in all official languages of the United Nations (an estimated total of 2,200 additional pages to process). Moreover, the costs of maintaining a second conference room, with interpretation, summary records, press releases and technical support, will also need to be taken into consideration.

9. In particular, the 10 additional meetings of the second chamber of the pre-sessional working group in 2013 would require interpretation services in three working languages; 1,400 pages of pre-session documentation and 50 pages of post-session documentation in all official languages of the United Nations; and 50 pages of in-session documentation in the three working languages of the Committee. The 26 additional meetings of the second chamber of one of the regular sessions in 2014 would require interpretation services in the three working languages; the provision of summary records; 300 pages of pre-session documentation and 200 pages of post-session documentation in all official languages of the United Nations; and 200 pages of in-session documentation in the three working languages of the Committee.

10. The activities relating to the additional meetings of the Committee would require additional resources in the amount of $3,533,300, as enumerated in the tables below. These requirements are new and are not included in the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. Additional appropriations would therefore be required for costs pertaining to 2013. The requirements for 2014 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

IV. Estimated additional resource requirements

A. Conference-servicing requirements

11. It is estimated that additional conference-servicing requirements of $3,118,800 would arise, comprising $3,107,700 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, including $1,948,800 for 2013 and $1,158,900 for 2014, and a total of $11,100 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, including $3,100 for 2013 and $8,000 for 2014. While the amount of $1,951,900 for 2013 is to be included in the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, the amount of $1,166,900 for 2014 is to be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. The table below provides the details of these requirements.

(United States dollars)

	2013	*2014*	*Total*
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management			
Interpretation	44 700	113 900	158 600
Pre-session documentation	1 770 000	422 000	2 192 000
In-session documentation	50 100	143 900	194 000
Summary records	–	207 000	207 000
Post-session documentation	81 700	259 500	341 200
Other conference services	2 300	12 600	14 900
Total, section 2	**1 948 800**	**1 158 900**	**3 107 700**
Section 29E, Administration, Geneva			
Support service requirements	3 100	8 000	11 100
Total, section 29E	**3 100**	**8 000**	**11 100**
Total	**1 951 900**	**1 166 900**	**3 118 800**

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

Section 24, Human rights

12. It is estimated that general temporary assistance for P-3 level staff for 14 months and General Service (Other level) staff for 10 months in 2013 at a cost of $330,000 would be required under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 to provide substantive support to the Committee for the additional reports to be examined. General temporary assistance requirements for P-3 level staff for 4 months and General Service (Other level) staff for 2 months at the cost of $84,500 would also arise in the biennium 2014-2015. The responsibilities of those positions would be as follows:

(a) One P-3 staff member, for 10 months in 2013 and 2 for two months in 2014. The staff member's time would dedicate to conducting background research on the issues covered in the 10 additional reports and to preparing drafts for the Committee. Given the broad scope of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which contains 41 operative articles, the preparatory work would be divided between the time leading up to the meetings at the pre-sessional working groups in May 2013 and the weeks preceding the regular session of the Committee in January 2014, at which the additional reports are to be examined;

(b) One P-3 staff member would act as Deputy Secretary of the Committee, for a period of 4 months in 2013 and 2 months in 2014. The responsibilities of the staff member would also involve liaising with those States parties whose reports are to be reviewed and with non-governmental organizations contributing supplementary information, arranging conference services and overseeing the substantive work of the secretariat;

(c) One General Service (Other level) staff member, for a period of 10 months in 2013 and 2 months in 2014, would manage the organizational and

logistical preparations for the second chamber, including liaising with the concerned permanent missions, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and other contributors and observers of Committee sessions.

13. In addition, amounts of $51,300 for 2013 and $12,000 for 2014 would be required under section 37, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. The table below shows total additional requirements under budget sections 2, 24 and 29E.

(United States dollars)

	2013	*2014*	*Total*
Section 24, Human rights			
General temporary assistance at the P-3 level for 18 months (14 months in 2013 and 4 months in 2014)	215 200	61 500	276 700
General temporary assistance at General Service level for 12 months (10 months in 2013 and 2 months in 2014)	114 800	23 000	137 800
Total, section 24	**330 000**	**84 500**	**414 500**
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	1 948 800	1 158 900	3 107 700
Total, section 2	**1 948 800**	**1 158 900**	**3 107 700**
Section 29E, Administration, Geneva	3 100	8 000	11 100
Total, section 29E	**3 100**	**8 000**	**11 100**
Total	**2 281 900**	**1 251 400**	**3 533 300**

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2012-2013

14. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for the activities requested under paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.35. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It would therefore be necessary for additional resources in the amount of $2,281,900 to be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2012-2013. The additional requirements of $1,251,400 for 2014 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

VI. Contingency fund

15. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from

the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VII. Summary

16. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.35, additional resources in the total amount of $2,281,900 would be required for the biennium 2012-2013, including $330,000 under section 24, Human rights; $1,948,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; and $3,100 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require additional appropriation for the biennium 2012-2013 to be approved by the Assembly.**

17. **The additional requirements for 2014 of $1,251,400, including $84,500 under section 24, Human rights; $1,158,900 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; and $8,000 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

United Nations A/C.3/67/L.70

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Sixty-seventh session
Third Committee
Agenda items 69 (c) and 130

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of paragraph 21 of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(b) To give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner;

(c) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

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II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2012-2013

2. The foregoing requests relate to subprogramme 1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, of programme 2, Political affairs, and subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, and subprogramme 4, Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, of programme 19, Human rights, of the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 (A/65/6/Rev.1).

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. In his report to the General Assembly (A/67/333), the Secretary-General outlined his continued broad-based consultations with the authorities and key stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, as well as with key Member States with regard to implementation of the good offices mandate.

4. The Secretary-General recognized that the new civilian Government headed by President Thein Sein has undertaken dramatic and significant reform measures to consolidate democracy, including enacting new laws in active sessions of the national parliament and regional assemblies, reaching out to various ethnic groups to promote peace and national reconciliation, encouraging the voluntary return and resettlement of displaced populations, releasing significant numbers of political prisoners and taking measures to carry out economic reforms aimed at transforming the largely centralized economy into an increasingly market-oriented one that is open to foreign investment and trade. Over the past year, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General has visited Myanmar three times at the invitation of the Government: (a) in October-November 2011, following the new steps taken in the implementation of reforms, national dialogue and reconciliation; (b) in February 2012, ahead of the April 2012 by-elections; and (c) in June 2012 during the early days of the first outbreak of communal violence in Rakhine State. In addition, the Special Adviser also accompanied the Secretary-General during his most recent visit to Myanmar at the end of April into early May 2012, making an additional visit to the country in September 2012.

5. The complex and evolving situation in Myanmar has required the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser to continue to implement good offices through comprehensive engagement with the authorities of Myanmar and other relevant stakeholders. Engagement in the political, humanitarian and socioeconomic areas has remained equally important in advancing the objectives of the good offices mandate. The Special Adviser has accordingly sought progress in five areas: (a) the release of political prisoners; (b) the pursuit of an inclusive dialogue between the Government and all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process, including both those who are represented in Parliament and those who are not; (c) the creation of conditions conducive to an inclusive and credible political and electoral process; (d) measures to improve socioeconomic conditions through strengthening the partnership of the United Nations and Myanmar; and (e) a regularized pattern of engagement and cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations through the good offices process.

6. Notwithstanding the positive developments in the country, which have created an opportunity for the calibration of the approach of the good offices process, a number of political, human rights, development and humanitarian problems facing Myanmar still remain. Issues of particular concern are the second outbreak of communal violence in Rakhine State and the delay in reaching a ceasefire in the conflict in Kachin State. The continued detention of the remaining political prisoners remains of concern to the United Nations and the international community.

7. The support of the General Assembly for the existing capacity of the Secretary-General's good offices role will therefore remain important in order to help the Government and other stakeholders maximize the opportunities for greater democratization and national reconciliation through an inclusive political process. Member States continue to have a shared stake in the success of the current process in bringing about a credible transition that can contribute to the country's stability and development. The reform agenda and the transition process offer a chance for a better understanding between Myanmar and the international community, providing an opportunity for greater cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations in the interest of the people of Myanmar.

8. In future, the Secretary-General will continue to work with all concerned to support the efforts of the Government and the people of Myanmar towards national reconciliation, the transition to democracy and full respect for human rights as the necessary foundation for long-term stability and prosperity. In the light of the increase in United Nations activities in a number of areas of engagement in Myanmar, including a new United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country programme, which was submitted to the UNDP Executive Board in September 2012, and the preparation of the 2014 census and peacebuilding activities in border areas, the Office of the Special Adviser continues to chair the inter-agency and interdepartmental Myanmar Working Group at Headquarters at working and senior-levels in order to facilitate information-sharing and coordination in view of the importance of enhancing United Nations system-wide coherence.

9. In 2013, consistent with the requests contained in operative paragraphs 21 (a) and (b) of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1, the Secretary-General would continue his efforts to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance in this regard. The efforts of his good offices would be carried out through his Special Adviser and his team, in close coordination with the Department of Political Affairs at Headquarters. The progress made in the implementation of the resolution would be reported to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

IV. Estimated resource requirements

10. The estimated costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization through his Special Adviser for Myanmar, as requested in paragraphs 21 (a), (b) and (c) of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1, for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2013, amount to $1,397,800 net ($1,519,900 gross).

11. These resources would cover: the salaries of the Special Adviser (Under-Secretary-General) and four staff (2 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other Level)); the official travel of the Special Adviser to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; the services of consultants; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. Other substantive and administrative support to the Special Adviser would be provided by the Department of Political Affairs.

12. The above requirements have been included in the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/67/346/Add.1) and would be part of the 2013 appropriation for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

13. With regard to the request contained in paragraph 21 (b), pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the related requirements are considered of a "perennial nature" and as such, a provision of an estimated $73,600 per annum to implement the activities of the Special Rapporteur has been made, under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

14. No additional resources are requested under section 24, Human rights, at this juncture, over and above those reflected above.

V. Summary

15. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1, additional requirements amounting to $1,397,800 net ($1,519,900 gross) would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar.**

16. **These requirements would be part of the 2013 appropriation for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. Approval for these requirements are being sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/67/346/Add.1), currently before the Assembly for consideration during the main part of its sixty-seventh session.**

United Nations A/C.3/67/L.71

General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Third Committee
Agenda item 28 (b)
Advancement of women: implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 66/132 of 19 December 2011, and recalling also the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[3] the 2005 World Summit,[4] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[5] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[3] See resolution 55/2.
[4] See resolution 60/1.
[5] See resolution 65/1.

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to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions,

Welcoming also the progress of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recognizing that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Reaffirming also the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[6]

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypic roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[7] and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011,[8] in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV,

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[6] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[7] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[8] Resolution 65/277, annex.

Welcoming the integration of a gender perspective into the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[9] and in this regard commending UN-Women on its efforts to ensure coherence throughout the United Nations system in its advocacy for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of sustainable development,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system,[10]

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[11]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] as well as the declaration adopted on the occasion of the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[12] and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the

[9] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[10] A/67/347.

[11] A/67/185.

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[13] are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[14] and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in the effective functioning of UN-Women in regard to its governance structure, as well as administration, budgeting and human resources;

7. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

8. *Calls upon* UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and, in that regard, to place a strong and more systematic focus on support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks;

10. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively, and recognizing also that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

11. *Encourages* all actors, including Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[14] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes, and encourages intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission into their work;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the UN-Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO — UNiTE to End Violence against Women";

14. *Reiterates its call* upon the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, including those of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in 2012 and the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2013;

15. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard calls for the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women to feature prominently in discussions on the post-2015 development framework, bearing in mind the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective;

16. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of

women, and in this regard welcomes the commitment of UN-Women to establish concrete results-based reporting mechanisms, as well as to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

17. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

18. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

19. *Calls upon* intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

20. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and the provision of sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide inputs to his reports;

21. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

22. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit

more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

24. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, with recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

25. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional and national levels, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

26. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

27. *Encourages* its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, in the light of the analysis contained in the report of the Secretary-General and of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the empowerment of women, to make further progress in the integration of a gender perspective into their work;

28. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, and in that context encourages Member States to consider the appropriate commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.